



Please contact MDOL Animal Health office with any questions: 406-444-2043

## Managing Johne's Disease in Affected Herds

A herd is considered positive for Johne's disease after a positive organism detection test (PCR or post-mortem histology or culture). See reverse side for more information on specific tests.

	REMOVE INFECTED ANIMALS	AVOID NEW INFECTIONS	MANAGE THE ENVIRONMENT
<b>At a minimum</b>	Remove thin animals and animals with diarrhea	Inquire about the Johne's status of a herd when purchasing animals – it is safer to acquire animals from a herd with an active testing program than from a herd of unknown status – the safest animals are test-negative animals from test-negative dams	Use clean equipment for feeding and handling cattle
<b>An additional step</b>	Test high risk animals* – consider managing high risk and test positive animals separately if they can't be completely removed from the herd	Be careful when purchasing bulls – a positive bull can expose many susceptible calves	Keep calving areas clean – this includes any areas where cows with calves at side may congregate (i.e. areas around feed and in pens for AI)
<b>Further management actions</b>	Conduct annual herd tests and remove positive animals – time testing to remove positive animals before they expose a new crop of calves	Keep only offspring of test-negative animals for replacements	Use the lowest stocking density possible on pasture and graze low-risk animals (steers and adult cows) on contaminated pastures – fence animals out of wet areas and standing water
<b>In addition to all the above</b>	Cull off-spring of test-positive animals** – calves of test-positive animals are likely to be infected	Use embryo transfer to rescue genetics from positive animals – make sure to use recipients that are test-negative and from test-negative dams	Let pastures rest 12 months before re-using and don't fertilize hay fields or pasture with manure

\*High risk animals are those that are thin, have diarrhea, or with known exposure to Johne's as calves

\*\*Test positive animals are animals that have a positive fecal PCR or are ELISA positive and from a known positive herd



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## Understanding Johne's Testing

Consider testing your herd for Johne's disease if: you have symptomatic animals, you have purchased animals from a herd with Johne's, or you want to establish the status of your herd. Work with MDOL and your veterinarian to develop a testing protocol for your herd.

TEST	HIGHLIGHTS
ELISA—tests blood for disease antibodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid result</li> <li>• Best for animals &gt;2 years of age</li> <li>• \$8/head for 1-100, \$6/head for 101-500, \$4/head for &gt;500 at MVDL</li> <li>• Potential for false positives and negatives as an individual animal test – use as a herd-wide screening test</li> </ul>
*PCR— tests manure for bacterial DNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few false positives</li> <li>• Fewer false negatives than blood test</li> <li>• Rapid result (one to two weeks)</li> <li>• Potential for pooling – follow up positive pooled samples with individual animal tests</li> <li>• \$31.50 for individual samples at MVDL</li> <li>• \$7.35 per animal when grouped in a pool of 5 (\$36.75 for pool) at MVDL</li> </ul>
*Post mortem analysis (histology or culture)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few false positives or negatives</li> <li>• Post mortem test</li> </ul>
<b>*Animals positive on an official organism detection test are not eligible for movement across state lines unless direct to slaughter per 9 CFR 80.3</b>	